

Current Status of the Claims

Claim 1 (original) A device for coupling tubular members comprising:

a sheet member having a first end and a second end where said first end and said second end are operatively arranged to overlap one another to form a substantially cylindrically shaped coupling;

an abutment member mounted to said sheet member proximate said second end thereof;

a male threaded member;

a movable female member mounted proximate said first end of said sheet, where said female member is arranged to threadably engage said threaded male member, and said male member is operatively arranged to abut said abutment member, wherein said male threaded member is operatively arranged to rotate in a first direction to abut said abutment member and expand said substantially cylindrically shaped coupling, and;

at least one clip fixedly attached to an outer surface of said substantially cylindrically shaped coupling, wherein said clip functions to hold said device in engagement with said tubular members during coupling.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 1 wherein said female member is slidably mounted.

Claim 4-10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 1 further comprising a gasket seal mounted to said outer surface of said sheet member in a substantially transverse configuration, wherein said gasket seal is positioned between said first end of said

sheet member and said second end of said sheet member when said first end and said second end are operatively arranged to overlap one another to form a substantially cylindrically shaped coupling.

Claim 12 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 11 wherein said gasket seal mounted to said outer surface in a transverse configuration further comprises increased thickness at least one intersection of said raise bead and said outer surface.

Claim 13 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 12 wherein said gasket seal mounted to said outer surface in a transverse configuration extends out from between said overlapped first sheet end and said second sheet end.

Claim 14 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 13 wherein an outer surface of a portion of said gasket seal mounted to said outer surface in a transverse configuration is tapered.

Claim 15-17. (cancelled)

Claim 18 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 1 further comprising at least one insertion-type fastener.

Claim 19 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 18 wherein said insertion-type fastener is a screw.

Claim 20 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 18 wherein said insertion-type fastener is a rivet.

Claim 21 (original) A device for coupling tubular members comprising:

a sheet member having a first end and a second end where said first end and said second end are operatively arranged to overlap one another to form a substantially cylindrically shaped coupling;

an abutment member mounted to said sheet member proximate said first end thereof;

a male threaded member;

a movable female member mounted proximate said second end of said sheet, where said female member is arranged to threadably engage said threaded male member, and said male member is operatively arranged to abut said abutment member, wherein said male threaded member is operatively arranged to rotate in a first direction to abut said abutment member and expand said substantially cylindrically shaped coupling, and;

at least one clip fixedly attached to an outer surface of said substantially cylindrically shaped coupling, wherein said clip functions to hold said device in engagement with said tubular members during coupling.

Claim 22 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 21 wherein said female member is pivotable mounted and arranged for pivoting rotation around a pivot point.

Claim 23 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 21 wherein said female member is slidably mounted.

Claim 24 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 21 wherein said at least one clip comprises a first clip and a second clip angularly disposed with respect to one another about a circumference of said substantially cylindrically shaped coupling.

Claim 25 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 21 wherein said sheet member further comprises a first furled edge and a second furled edge.

Claim 26 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 21 wherein said sheet member comprises a raised bead emanating outwardly from said outer surface and extending along substantially an entire length of said sheet member.

Claim 27 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 26 wherein said raised bead is round.

Claim 28 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 26 wherein said raised bead is rectangular.

Claim 29 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 25 further comprising at least one gasket sealing covering positioned over said outer surface of said sheet member arranged adjacent said raised bead and extending along substantially said entire length of said sheet member.

Claim 30 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 29 wherein said at least one gasket sealing covering comprises a first gasket sealing covering arranged adjacent said raised bead and covering a first portion of said substantially entire length of said sheet member and a second gasket sealing covering arranged adjacent said raise bead and covering a second portion of said substantially entire length of said sheet member.

Claim 31 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 21 further comprising a gasket seal mounted to said outer surface of said sheet member in a substantially transverse configuration, wherein said gasket seal is positioned between said first end of said sheet member and said second end of said sheet member when said first end and said second end are operatively arranged to overlap one another to form a substantially cylindrically shaped coupling.

Claim 32 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 31 wherein said gasket seal mounted to said outer surface in a transverse configuration further comprises increased thickness at least one intersection of said raise bead and said outer surface.

Claim 33 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 31 wherein said gasket seal mounted to said outer surface in a transverse configuration extends out from between said overlapped first sheet end and said second sheet end.

Claim 34 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 33 wherein an outer surface of a portion of said gasket seal mounted to said outer surface in a transverse configuration is tapered.

Claim 35 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 21 wherein said at least one clip is a spring clip.

Claim 36 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 21 wherein said at least one clip is a pivot clip.

Claim 37 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 21 wherein said at least one clip is a flip-type clip.

Claim 38 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 21 further comprising at least one insertion-type fastener.

Claim 39 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 38 wherein said insertion-type fastener is a screw.

Claim 40 (original) The device for coupling tubular members recited in Claim 38 wherein said insertion-type fastener is a rivet.